

Message Text

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APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY

P - MR. SISCO

S/S - WHLUERS

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TO USINT DAMASCUS NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO NIACT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 058810

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SY, US

SUBJECT: ALLEGED REMARKS BY SECRETARY ABOUT PRESIDENT ASAD

1. FOR DAMASCUS:

A. ARTICLE CARRIED BY WEST GERMAN MAGAZINE "QUICK"
MARCH 21 ISSUE ALLEGES SECRETARY HAS EXPRESSED FOLLOWING
VIEWS ABOUT PRESIDENT ASAD:

OFFICIAL: "I HAVE MADE GOOD PROGRESS IN DAMASCUS IN
CERTAIN DECISIVE AREAS."

PRIVATE: "THAT DISHONEST DOG. I DON'T TRUST HIM FOR
EVEN FIVE MINUTES. EVEN AFTER REACHING AN AGREEMENT HE
WILL STILL HAVE SOME TRICK READY IN ORDER TO SOMEHOW UNDER-
MINE THAT AGREEMENT. I BELIEVE THAT ASAD REALLY HAS SOME
GREAT DREAM OF DRIVING THE JEWS INTO THE MEDITERRANEAN
SEA. FOR ME HE IS THE WEAK POINT FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE

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EAST."

B. ARTICLE ALSO ALLEGES FOLLOWING AS SECRETARY'S VIEWS OF SADAT:

OFFICIAL: "WITHOUT SADAT AND HIS HELP A SOLUTION TO THE MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT WOULD NEVER HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE."

PRIVATE: "I BELIEVE HE IS THE ONLY ARAB WHO IS ALWAYS READY TO TELL THE TRUTH. YOU CAN ALWAYS TRUST SADAT. HE IS A GREAT ARAB STATESMAN. HE IS NOT ONLY A VERY PLEASANT COLLEAGUE, BUT ALSO A POLITICIAN WITH UNDERSTANDING AND FEEL FOR THE RELATIONSHIPS OF POWER AND FOR COMPROMISE."

C. YOU SHOULD TRANSMIT TO PRESIDENT ASAD THE SECRETARY'S PERSONAL ASSURANCE THAT THE REMARKS ATTRIBUTED TO HIM BY "QUICK" ARE TOTAL MALICIOUS INVENTIONS. THEIR CLEAR PURPOSE IS TO UNDERMINE GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN SECRETARY AND PRESIDENT, AND TO SEEK TO CREATE IMPRESSION THAT THERE IS SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SECRETARY

AND PRESIDENT SADAT. THE SECRETARY MAKES NO DISTINCTION BETWEEN PRESIDENT SADAT AND PRESIDENT ASAD, AND HE IS PREPARED TO DO FOR SYRIA PRECISELY WHAT HE HAS DONE FOR EGYPT.

D. YOU SHOULD SAY THAT SECRETARY WANTS PRESIDENT TO HAVE THESE PRIVATE ASSURANCES IMMEDIATELY, EVEN THOUGH HE IS CONFIDENT PRESIDENT WILL NOT BE TAKEN IN BY SUCH MALICIOUS SLANDER.

2. FOR CAIRO:

A. YOU SHOULD DESCRIBE REFERENCES TO ASAD AND SADAT IN "QUICK" AND CONVEY FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO SADAT VIA FAHMY: SECRETARY HOLDS PRESIDENT IN HIGHEST REGARD BUT IT IS IN INTEREST OF BOTH EGYPT AND U.S. THAT SECRETARY DENY ALL THE REMARKS ATTRIBUTED TO HIM. THIS IS NECESSARY SO THAT THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS MISCHIEVOUS ARTICLE WILL NOT ACHIEVE THEIR OBJECTIVE, WHICH IS CLEARLY TO CREATE SUSPICION IN PRESIDENT ASAD'S MIND AND UNDERMINE U.S.

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ABILITY TO PLAY USEFUL AND INFLUENTIAL ROLE WITH SYRIA IN NEGOTIATING PROCESS. CLEARLY SELECTIVE DENIAL WOULD NOT BE CREDIBLE TO ASAD.

3. "QUICK" ARTICLE ALSO HAS QUOTATIONS FROM ALLEGED REMARKS BY SECRETARY RE NUMBER OF OTHER WORLD LEADERS.

4. WE WILL HAVE OUR PRESS SPOKESMAN DENY ARTICLE AND

SAY EVERYTHING IN IT IS TOTAL INVENTION, AND SCOTES AND
EILTS MAY SO INFORM ASAD AND SADAT. KISSINGER

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